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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS

Bush: Turkey a strong, secular democracy - Sabah  
Bush: Turkey a part of Europe - Aksam  
Bush: Freedom will come to Middle East - Milliyet  
Chirac: Turkey's EU process irreversible - Hurriyet  
Powell, Gul stand together against human trafficking -  
Hurriyet  
Bosphorus boat tour enchants leaders' wives - Aksam  
GME split in NATO - Sabah  
Europe halts headscarf - Milliyet  
ECHR says no to headscarf - Aksam  
Allawi a hope for Bush - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

Bush: Turkey can prevent clash of civilizations - Zaman  
Bush: God bless Turkey - Radikal  
Bush praises Turkey - Referans  
Bush, Schroeder: Turkey deserves to be in EU - Radikal  
Historic summit boosts Turkey EU support - Yeni Safak  
Schroeder to US: You can't win peace on your own -  
Cumhuriyet  
\$200,000 Topkapi banquet for NATO leaders - Referans  
Turkey to take ISAF command next year - Yeni Safak  
Karzai to NATO: Send troops now - Radikal  
Tour operators: Bush Istanbul speech worth \$1 billion in  
promotion - Zaman  
ECHR: Headscarf ban not against the law - Radikal  
Iraqis want a powerful leadership, democracy - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

President Bush remarks at Galatasaray University: Turkey, a Muslim and secular country, is very important for the future of the broader Middle East region, President Bush said in Istanbul on Tuesday. Speaking at Istanbul's Galatasaray University, Bush said that a tolerant Turkish society is a bridge between Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Bush said that including Turkey in Europe would tear down an unnecessary barrier and would be as momentous as the fall of the Iron Curtain. "Including Turkey in the EU would prove that Europe is not the exclusive club of a single religion, and it would expose the 'clash of civilizations' as a passing myth of history," Bush said. President Bush thanked Turkey for its role, as a democratic partner, in the Broader Middle East initiative. He acknowledged that reform and transformation in the region would not be easy. However, he emphasized his commitment to 'finish the work that history has given us.' 'The struggle between political extremism and civilized values is unfolding in many places,' President Bush noted, pointing to ongoing violence in Iraq, Iran, and Palestine. 'The long-term stability of any government depends on being open to change,' he added. Bush said that Turkey has learned this lesson, and through this process has become a great and stable democracy. He said that America wants to see other nations take that path, Bush said.

NATO Istanbul Summit ends: The NATO Istanbul Summit has removed the few remaining obstacles to Turkey's EU membership, mainstream papers report. Dailies highlight not only the powerful support voiced by President Bush, but the positive attitude of many European members such as Austria and the Netherlands, former opponents of Turkey's membership in the EU. Despite positive statements by NATO members with regard to the Istanbul summit, "Cumhuriyet" said there was a minimum amount of compromise between the members of the alliance. Efforts to sort out an agreement between the US and the German-French bloc have not been successful, "Cumhuriyet" writes. Tensions between NATO and Russia have increased further, the paper claims. The only notable

decision adopted by the summit, according to "Cumhuriyet," was the expansion of NATO's mission in Afghanistan. The decision on Iraq is a concession to German and French demands, but details of implementation remain unclear. The role of NATO within the Broader Middle East initiative was discussed behind closed doors, and a further meeting on this issue will be held with Gulf countries December of this year, the paper notes.

Powell, Gul open shelter for victims of human trafficking: On Tuesday, FM Gul and US Secretary of State Powell attended the opening ceremony for a shelter built by the Istanbul municipality for victims of human trafficking. FM Gul said that new strategies were needed in the fight against human trafficking. Secretary Powell said Turkey has taken a big step in the struggle against trafficking, and called on other governments to cooperate in this effort. The shelter will provide legal, psychological and medical assistance to people victimized by traffickers.

Court rules against Muslim headscarf: The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruled that Turkish university students could not claim that the ban on Muslim headscarves violates their freedom of religion. The court rejected two separate complaints by Turkish students. The decision by the Strasbourg-based court will set a precedent for national courts across Europe and fend off expected lawsuits following a heated dispute about banning headscarves in schools. In its first judgment on the headscarf issue, the ECHR decided that a ban applied in the name of the separation of church and state should be regarded as 'necessary in a democratic society.' The court's decision is a deep disappointment to proponents of the headscarf, including PM Erdogan. Erdogan refused to comment on the matter at a press conference on Tuesday. Human Rights Watch (HRW) said it regretted the ruling, arguing that the headscarf ban violated the freedom of religion, expression, privacy, and even the right to education.

Turkish captives released in Iraq: A terrorist group with ties to Al-Zargawi's released the three Turks taken hostage in Iraq last Saturday, papers report. Zargawi's group said that the captives had been released following demonstrations against US President Bush and the NATO summit in Turkey. The Iraqi resisters voiced satisfaction with the Turkish demonstrations which, they said, 'displayed Turkey's opposition to NATO.'

EDITORIAL OPINION: POTUS Speech in Istanbul

"The Reason for Sitting Under the Bare Sun" Ertugrul Ozkok commented in the mass appeal Hurriyet (6/30): "There have been a lot of question marks regarding the venue for President Bush's address in Istanbul, particularly security concerns and the inconvenience of sitting under the bare sun. However, things were crisp and clear as soon as the US President walked to the podium. The mosque and the bridge between Europe and Asia were highlights behind him. This symbolic set-up provided a visual background for Bush's speech on the Greater Middle East. Moreover, the open air set-up for his speech was like his defiance against terrorism. ... As one of the Turkish participants at the President's speech commented, the whole atmosphere served as a part of Bush's election campaign. In other words, President Bush successfully hit 'many birds' by throwing only one stone."

"Bush and American Propaganda" Oral Calislar argued in the social democrat-opinion maker Cumhuriyet (6/30): "It creates a clear paradox when President Bush speaks about democracy and freedom. Is it not because US support keeps the anti-democratic and anti-freedom regimes alive in the region? The US presents the democracy issue in a misleading context by showing Syria and Iran as the sources of the problem. It is not a secret how many anti-democratic regimes in the Middle East succeed to rule with US support. ... President Bush maintained a warm and friendly attitude after concluding his speech. He chatted with guests and his remarks about opposition and democracy were impressive. From the way he responded to criticism regarding Iraq policy and its possible negative impact on his election campaign, it was evident that he believes he will be re-elected."

"Strategic Messages Given At the Bosphorus" Ali Aslan wrote in the Islamist-Intellectual Zaman (6/30): "President Bush tried to eliminate the Islamic circle's concerns for the Middle East reform project with religious arguments. In his speech, the ideal of 'justice' in Islamic civilizations was emphasized instead of the 'freedom' in the West. And he explained that democracy is the best way to establish a lawful community. In the speech he stressed that the rights of Muslims could be defended only with the supremacy of justice. The speech also highlighted that having democratic values does not mean giving up religion. The main message given to Turkey was 'You are on the right path. Continue to implement reforms. Do not believe in conspiracy theories. The US is Turkey's unchangeable friend

and US national interests require a solid alliance with Turkey'. Most probably, Bush believed this text, which was written in Washington, more after seeing the cultural, historic and natural richness of Istanbul and the potential of Turkey. In short, Bush's speech proves that the US considers Turkey the center for propaganda in injecting democracy into the Islamic world."

"Fait-Accompli in Iraq"

Ergun Babahan commented in the mass appeal Sabah (6/30): "The Bush Administration is getting ready to run away from Iraq, which was occupied using the democracy argument, as soon as possible. The US was so unsuccessful in Iraq, they had to have the sovereignty transfer ceremonies behind closed doors. As a matter of fact, there isn't much the Iraqi government can do. They have neither police nor military forces. They will try to manage a state organization that was eliminated with the occupation and will try to eliminate the terror and chaos that increase with every passing day. There will be a bomb next to Turkey, formed by the Shiite Arabs, Kurds and Sunni Arabs, ready to explode. These groups, being ready to fight on every issue from Kirkuk to the administration of Iraq, will exist as a continuous threat next to us. Therefore, let us listen to Bush's words calmly, be pleased for the support he gave for the European Union, but, never forget what kind of geography he left us in."

"Imperial Messages Sent from the Imperial Capital"

Cengiz Candar wrote in the sensational "DB Tercuman" (6/30): "President Bush gave a major policy speech yesterday, and everything was well prepared in advance. Even the transfer of authority in Iraq provided a nice background for this speech. ... The President's speech was essentially a response to the events of 9/11. The speech highlighted the US commitment to the future of the Middle East. Before the Istanbul speech, President Bush has never given such a public emphasis on the strategic planning for this project, now commonly known as the Broader Middle East Initiative. We can make some assumptions, based on the President's speech, about US goals for the next 25 years in the Middle East region. NATO has now committed itself to these goals. In fact, President Bush made reference to NATO's 'reincarnation' in the context of the future of the Middle East. ... This is not a short-term policy issue. This is about an important strategy in which Turkey will also play an important part. President Bush mentioned Turkey very highly in his speech. The backdrop for the Istanbul speech was designed with careful consideration, underlining Turkey's European and Muslim identity. ... It is very important that President Bush talked about the elimination of the PKK in the context of the future of the Middle East. The US determination on this issue has never been more clearly. Following this speech, we can conclude that Turkey's present and Turkey's future have been ensured by the United States."

"President Bush: US Policy Will not be Affected by the Elections"

Murat Yetkin opined in the liberal-intellectual "Radikal" (6/30): "US President George Bush announced that US policies will remain as they are, or perhaps will be pursued even more vigorously, after the November 2004 elections. Bush said this in reply to a question posed by a 'Radikal' correspondent after his speech at Galatasaray University. This statement proves that, despite the damage he has sustained from Iraq and human rights issues, Bush has confidence in himself and has no intention of changing his policies in his effort to defeat his Democratic rival, John Kerry. In his speech, the President concentrated on the Greater Middle East Project and on the democratization of the Muslim countries. Within this framework, he presented his allies, including Turkey, with enormously ambitious goals. Bush described Turkey as a 'secular and powerful democracy,' and stressed his hope that other countries in the region would take Turkey as a model. Bush also made oblique criticisms of some countries in the region, such as Saudi Arabia, for maintaining their repressive regimes and creating more fertile ground for international terrorism. We later discussed Bush's speech with the Turkish Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee chairman, AKP Deputy Mehmet Dulger. Dulger, like many others, believes that even if Kerry emerges as the victor in the election, no fundamental changes should be expected in US policy. In light of Bush's statement, no one should make any political calculations based on the assumption of major policy changes coming from Washington."

"While listening to Bush"

Taha Akyol opined in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (6/30): "President Bush never uttered the phrase 'moderate Islam' in his speech. He stressed the Turkish Republic's 'secular, democratic' character. Turkey is 'a majority Muslim' society, he said. ... It was clear that Bush has grasped the sensitivity of President Sezer, the military, and the establishment to the US characterization of Turkey."

President Bush also emphasized that 'democratic societies should not fear the participation of the faithful.'

President Sezer excluded the spouses of PM Erdogan and FM Gul at his reception for NATO leaders. This is unfair discrimination. ... It is true that 'democratic societies should not fear the participation of the faithful,' because democracy must be a force for transformation. ... Turkey has a considerable accumulation of social and political experience. A movement with roots in Islam has accelerated domestic liberal reforms and Turkey's integration with the West. There is no reason that such a country should fear 'the participation of the faithful.' ... Other Middle Eastern countries lack Turkey's accumulation of knowledge and experience. The most effective pretext for these despotic and authoritarian regimes in the Middle East is that democracy would create chaos. The US President also voiced a theme stressed repeatedly by Turkey: 'The future of freedom in the Islamic world will be determined by citizens of Islamic nations, not by outsiders.' ... The Istanbul NATO Summit has been useful. Turkey's 'intercontinental' function has now come into clearer focus."

EDELMAN